

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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MONTREAL FOR US REP ICAO

E.O. 11652:N.A.

TAGS:WMO

SUBJECT: WMO: PROPOSED NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN STATION

AGREEMENT, US PARTICIPATION

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1. AT THE FIFTH INFORMAL PLANNING MEETING ON NAOS IN GENEVA

AUGUST 5-10, 1974, THE UNITED STATES OBSERVER RECALLED THAT THE US HAD WITHDRAWN FROM THE NAOS AGREEMENT UNDER ICAO FOR BUDGETARY REASONS AND STATED THAT THE US, NEVERTHELESS, FULLY RECOGNIZED THE VALUE OF CONTINUING THE NETWORK PRIMARILY FOR EUROPEAN METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES. HE ADDED THAT THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE SUCH METEOROLOGICAL NETWORKS AS INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE WORLD WEATHER WATCH AND WAS PRESENTLY REVIEWING THE POSSIBILITIES OF A USEFUL ROLE THE US COULD TAKE IN NAOS UNDER THE PROPOSED WMO AGREEMENT. THE US OBSERVER, HOWEVER, CAUTIONED THE MEETING NOT TO BE OPTIMISTIC AS TO THE OUTCOME OF THIS REVIEW.

2. THE REVIEW PROCESS HAS NOW BEEN VIRTUALLY COMPLETED. THE REVIEW HAS REAFFIRMED US ENDORSEMENT OF THE NAOS SCHEME PROPOSED UNDER THE WMO AS A VALUABLE SOURCE OF METEOROLOGICAL DATA THAT WOULD PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT ASSISTANCE TO BOTH EUROPEAN WEATHER SERVICES AND THE WWW. HOWEVER, THE REVIEW ALSO SHOWS THAT THE ANTICIPATED COSTS OF US PARTICIPATION, EITHER AS A CONTRIBUTOR OR AN OPERATOR, WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE. AS A CONTRIBUTING MEMBER, THE US SHARE IN THE COST-SHARING ARRANGEMENT UNDER THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT HAS BEEN PROJECTED TO BE ON THE ORDER OF 25 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL REIMBURSABLE COSTS. AS AN OPERATING MEMBER, INDICATIONS ARE THAT WITH SPIRALING INFLATION, SHIP-OPERATING COSTS WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY ABOVE THOSE EXPERIENCED BY US NAOS SHIPS OPERATED DURING THE ICAO-NAOS AGREEMENT.

3. IN LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING, THE UNITED STATES HAS DETERMINED THAT IT WILL BE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROPOSED NETWORK. THE UNITED STATES WILL CLOSELY OBSERVE THE OPERATION OF, AND THE BENEFITS DERIVED FROM, THE NETWORK AFTER IT IS INITIATED NEXT JULY AND OUR POSITION VIS-A-VIS NAOS WILL CONTINUE UNDER EXAMINATION AS ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC CONDITIONS CHANGE IN THE YEARS TO COME.

FOR GENEVA: THE MISSION IS REQUESTED TO INFORM THE WMO SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ABOVE DECISION AS WELL AS GENEVA MISSIONS, AS APPROPRIATE, OF THOSE WMO MEMBERS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN NAOS. THE MISSION IS FURTHER REQUEST-UNCLASSIFIED

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ED TO PROVIDE THE ATTENDANCE OF GORDON D. CARTWRIGHT AT THE RESUMED CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARY DELEGATIONS ON NAOS, NOVEMBER 4-15, 1974, TO REPRESENT THE US AS AN OBSERVER. HE SHOULD, BY DRAWING ON THE FOREGOING, PREPARE A BRIEF STATEMENT TO BE GIVEN AT THE CONFERENCE ANNOUNCING THIS DECISION.

FOR LONDON: IN LIGHT OF CLOSE INTEREST OF HMG, IN THE US

NAOS DECISION (LONDON 11713, 12347 ET AL), EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO INFORM APPROPRIATE OFFICES OF US DECISION DRAWING ON PREVIOUS PARAS. N. BRADBURY WAS PRINCIPAL UK DELEGATE AT AUGUST INFORMAL PLANNING MEETING.

FOR OTTAWA: ALTHOUGH CANADA DOES NOT PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN WMO-NAOS, OTTAWA HAS LIKEWISE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN US DECISION. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO INFORM EXSTAFF OF ABOVE.

FOR OTHER ACTION POSTS: HOST COUNTRIES ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN NOVEMBER CONFERENCE AND WMO-NAOS. EMBASSIES ARE REQUESTED TO PASS US DECISION TO THE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICES PREPARING FOR NOVEMBER PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE. IN PARTICULAR, EMBASSY THE HAGUE SHOULD INFORM K. R. POSTMA; PARIS, R. DU CHAXEL; AND SWEDEN, R. BERGGREN, ALL IN HOST GOVERNMENTS' METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES WITH LAST ALSO CHAIRING AUGUST PREP MEETING. V. GRUZINOV WAS USSR DELEGATE AT AUGUST INFORMAL PLANNING MEETING.

4. EMBASSIES ARE REQUESTED TO REPORT ANY SIGNIFICANT RESPONSES. INGERSOLL

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